

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 6 and 10 have been cancelled, and claims 2, 4, 7, 8 and 11 have been amended. Thus, claims 2-5, 7-9 and 11 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and Abstract by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner kindly indicated that claim 11 has not been withdrawn because claim 2 has been determined to be allowable. However, in the Office Action summary sheet, it was indicated that claim 1 is withdrawn from further consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Accordingly, claim 1 has been canceled.

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner required a new title of the invention, and suggested the title "Sheet Separation Roller Configuration." This suggested title has been adopted.

In items 4-6 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yagi et al.; and claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamauchi et al.

However, in items 7 and 8 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner kindly indicated that claims 2-5 and 11 are allowed, and that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim 7.

Accordingly, in order to expedite allowance of this application, rejected claim 6 has been canceled; and claim 10 has been canceled and all of its limitations have been placed in the independent claim 7. Therefore, with the addition of the subject matter of claim 10 into claim 7,

it is submitted that claim 7 is clearly allowable in view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claim 10.

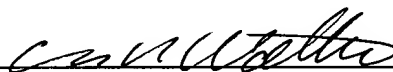
In addition to the above, the language of claims 2-5 and 7-9 has been reviewed and revised to improve the English grammar and U.S. form of the claims.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all of the claims are clearly allowable, and an early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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